

28: Spiro--104 [2]
116, 857, 573, 186, 591

(1947-48) 1949

Woleaians-1-2
Ifalik

"We may now examine the broader aspects of the interaction of children with their peers. From infancy through the latency period boys and girls play together, and comprise play groups. These groups are usually comprised of all the children of one district, though may at times include children from the other district of the island, as well. But rarely will a child from one island play with the children of another island, and never will he be a regular member of their play group. This does not mean that the play groups are formalized or structuralized, because they are not. It means that children of one district play together because of the factor of geographic contiguity, and thus patterns of interaction are created between them in terms of dominance, subordination, etc. But it is not only contiguity that creates the formation of these children's play groups. The adults deliberately restrict their mobility. A child under 9 or 10 is not permitted free access to the entire village, and never does he go from his district to another, unless accompanied by an older boy or girl, or an adult. This means that only children who establish intimate contacts with children outside of their own district are the aevam, adopted outside of their district who spend time both in their biological and foster parental homes. The other children see little of each other except at public gatherings--economic, political, religious. When adults are asked for the reasons for these restrictions on mobility, they give two answers. First, the parents want the children near them so that

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116, 857, 573, 186, 591

(1947-48) 1949

Woleaians-2
Ifalik

they can instruct them in certain skills, whereas if the children were constantly away, they would never learn. Second, the children might break something belonging to a stranger in another district.

This restriction on mobility is carried through into adult life. It is on rare occasions that inhabitants of one island visit the other, or even another district. Except for the women of Felarik to Falalap to work the taro patch, or the men in either island collecting their toddy from their inherited trees which may be in another island, they remain in their own districts. And, as we shall see, this pattern is reflected in the choice of a mate, who is usually chosen from one's own island."

28: Spiro--104 [3]
116, 186, 573, 883

(1947-48) 1949

Woleaians
Ifalik

"This pattern of district or island social isolation [WPM: see p. 104, paragraphs 2-3.] is broken at one point--the adolescent males. The girl's mobility, as she grows older is progressively restricted, rather than expanded. As a little girl, she has the range of her district. As she grows older, she is restricted more and more to her home, because of her growing economic and social responsibilities. The boy has little such responsibilities, so that as he gets older, his mobility is not restricted, and he may not only frequent another island or district, but may form close friendships or ties in them. But when he reaches the adult married state, he again remains in his own district."

28: Spiro--104-105
116, 857, 573

(1947-48) 1949

Woleaians
Ifalik

"The play group is comprised of all the boys and girls of a district. The ages may range from two or three to eight or nine. Always, however, when a large number of children play together, they are supervised by one or two girls in the latter ages. That is, two or three children may play themselves, but if a number of children [105] play, they are accompanied by two or three of the nine or ten year old girls, who act as supervisors. This is part of the girls' social responsibilities that the older boys do not share. The latter by this time have formed groups of their own."

28: Spiro--114 [4]
116, 562, 573

(1947-48) 1949

Woleaians
Ifalik

"As the children grow older, the sexes begin to separate. The boys form all-boy gangs, ranging in age from boys ten or eleven years old, through the very young married men. These gangs, completely informal and uninstitutionalized, are definitely local groups. On the island of Felarik, for example, there are two such gangs, one in Rauau, and one in Felarik. The younger members are part of the group, but occupy an inferior status, obeying the older ones. Each gang has a canoe-house in which it spends its time, doing nothing in particular, but sitting around, talking, playing checkers or cards and making rope. At night they assemble in the canoe houses or along the beach, where they remain until it gets dark, returning home or going to meet their lovers. In the past the boys and the young men of the district used to sleep together in the men's club-houses, but no longer do so, because of the fear of the alus, as we have already indicated. However, the young men in the Rauau gang do sleep together, at least during the trade wind season in one of the canoe houses. These young men are together constantly."

28: Spiro--147 [3]
116, 562, 883, 573

(1947-48) 1949

Woleaians
Ifalik

"The young women do not, as we have already pointed out, associate in gangs, as the young men do. Young women, in their late adolescence are already married, and, like the older women, remain near or about the homes. This means that the young women are integrated earlier into the adult female world, than are the young men into the adult male world."